

"Ray Simons"<rsimons@HEPN.com

To: "'Richard Kearney (richard.karney@ee.doe.gov) '"
<richard.karney@ee.doe.gov>

Subject: Energy Star Rating for Electric Water Heaters
05/13/2003 04:05
PM

Dear Mr. Kearney,

I am employed by Hoosier Energy REC., a generation and transmission electric cooperative that provides wholesale electric power to 16 distribution systems in central and southern Indiana. Collectively these cooperatives provide retail electric service to 220,000 residential consumers. Approximately 154,000 of these consumers use resistance electric water heaters to meet their hot water needs.

The "Energy Star " program can be used to assist consumers to choose more efficient products to meet their needs. Presently, the resistance electric water heater is often the only technology practical for use by rural residential consumers. The water heating industry is currently producing resistance electric water heaters that are efficient, practical and affordable. Other technologies used to produce hot water for the residential customer are still emerging and not proven reliable to the same degree that consumers expect from water heaters. I would encourage DOE to include resistance water heaters in the Energy Star program to meet the needs of rural customers.

Thank you,

Ray Simons
Manager of Marketing and Member Services
Hoosier Energy REC, Inc.